

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 CU-02 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8283

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13884

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT: USA-200 YEARS

REF/ STATE 217184

1. DCM CALLED MIKHAYLOV IN MFA TODAY AND CONVEYED MESSAGE IN PARA 3 REFTEL. MIKHAYLOV REPLIED THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE FIRM TO INSIST ON DELETION (IZYATIE) OF PASSAGE AND REITERATED THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED MATTER MOST SERIOUS. DCM SAID THAT, SINCE MISTAKE MADE IN TRANSLATION, IT IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES TO AVOID RAISING AFFAIR TO MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT ACCURATE TRANSLATION WOULD NOT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR SOVIET AUTHORITIES. SOFTENING SOMEWHAT, MIKHAYLOV ASKED IF RETRANSLATION COULD BE SUPPLIED "ON INFORMAL AND PERSONAL BASIS", AND STRESSED THAT TWO OF TERMS IN INITIAL TEXT MUST UNDER NOT CIRCUMSTANCES BE JUXTAPOSED (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO "FASCIST AND COMMUNIST"). DCM TOLD HIM THAT HE DID NOT HAVE TEXT OF RETRANSLATION AND WAS NOT SURE THAT IT COULD BE SUPPLIED IN ADVANCE BUT WAS CONFIDENT THAT WHAT WE INTENDED TO SAY INITIALLY -- AND WILL SAY IN CORRECTED TRANSLATION -- IS NOT OBJECTIONABLE.

2. COMMENT: IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE HAVE FOLLOWING OPTIONS AT THIS POINT:

A. TO REFUSE TO SUPPLY TEXT EVEN INFORMALLY TO MFA, SINCE

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THIS NOT PART OF INITIAL AGREEMENT ON EXHIBIT, BUT TO

PRINT BROCHURE WITH REVISED WORDING AND WHEN READY SUPPLY
ADVANCE SAMPLE ROUTINELY TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THIS WOULD
HAVE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT
SUBMITTING TO CENSORSHIP, BUT WOULD RUN SOME RISK THAT
EVEN SO, SOVIETS WOULD REFUSE DISTRIBUTION OF BROCHURE.
B. TO SUPPLY, ON COMPLETELY INFORMAL BASIS, REVISED RUSSIAN
TEXT TO MFA, WITH COMMENT THAT THIS IS ACCURATE TRANSLATION
OR ORIGINAL ARTICLE, THAT BROCHURE IS BEING PRINTED THIS
WAY, AND WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.
THIS WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF REDUCING RISK OF LAST-MINUTE
SOVIET OBJECTION, BUT DISADVANTAGE OF APPEARING TO SUBMIT
TO ADVANCE SOVIET APPROVAL OF TEXT, AND PERHAPS WOULD OPEN
DOOR TO FURTHER SOVIET EFFORTS TO FORCE REVISION OF SENTENCE.
(IF TERMS FASCIST AND COMMUNIST NOT USED, HOWEVER, WE
CONSIDER IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT SOVIETS WOULD ENTER
FURTHER OBJECTIONS.)

C. TO FOLLOW OPTION A, BUT INFORM MIKHAYLOV ON PERSONAL
BASIS, AND WITHOUT SUPPLYING TEXT, THAT WORDS "FASCIST"
AND "COMMUNIST" DO NOT APPEAR IN REVISED VERSION. THIS
WOULD SEEM TO ACHIEVE MOST OF THE ADVANTAGES OF OPTION A
WITHOUT ITS RISKS.

3. WE WOULD FAVOR OPTION C. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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